

Urban Waters: A New Partnership in Northwest Indiana



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What is Urban Waters?

- National effort, White House initiative
- Focus on waters-related projects in urban areas
- Encourage federal agencies to work more effectively and efficiently with each other
- Engage local communities as full partners in restoring and protecting their waterways
- Leverage area expertise and funding*
- Builds on existing USEPA Urban Waters program but USEPA is not the lead federal agency in all locations



Guiding Principles

- Promote clean urban waters.
- Reconnect people to their waterways.
- Encourage water conservation.
- Emphasize urban water systems as a way to promote economic revitalization and prosperity.
- Encourage community improvements through active partnerships.
- Be open and honest, and listen to communities.
- Focus on measuring results and evaluation to fuel future success.



Federal Agencies

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Corporation for National and Community Service

Department of Agriculture

Department of the Army

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior

Department of Transportation

Economic Development Administration

Environmental Protection Agency

National Institutes of Health

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



Federal Agencies – NW IN

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Corporation for National and Community Service

Department of Agriculture (Forest Service)*

Department of the Army (Army Corps of Engineers)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior (National Park Service)*

Department of Transportation

Economic Development Administration

Environmental Protection Agency*

National Institutes of Health

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (SeaGrant)

* NW Indiana lead agencies



Seven Pilot Locations

- Baltimore (Patapsco Watershed)
- Denver (South Platte River)
- Los Angeles (L.A. River)
- New York City (Bronx and Harlem Rivers)
- New Orleans (Lake Pontchartrain)
- Washington, DC (Anacostia River)
- Northwest Indiana



Northwest Indiana UW Pilot

- Selected as Pilot Spring 2011
- Initial “Fed Family” meeting May 18
 - Getting to know each other
 - Fed projects in northwest Indiana and local partners each agency has worked with
 - Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) introduction to the major waters-related issues and challenges in the region
 - Discussed geographic boundaries of the partnership
 - Limitations imposed by different fed agencies’ authorities
 - Identify NGOs and municipalities to reach out to



NW IN Partnership Formation

- First meeting with local partners and feds July 19
 - Again, getting to know each other, learn about who is doing what where
- Listed challenges/obstacles, potential funding sources, who else needs to be at the table
- Identified current projects with momentum, projects that need a little help to get going, priority future projects
- Identified a few needed 'next steps' for the partnership



NW IN: Project Examples

- Current projects with momentum:
 - Grand Calumet AOC; Roxanna Marsh dredging this year
 - Lake Michigan Water Trail
- Projects that need a little help:
 - Coordinating the MANY environmental ed projects
 - Choked stretches of Little Calumet River need clearing
- Priority Future Projects
 - Real-time CSO overflow tracking
 - Reforestation after ash tree die-offs



Non-fed partners in NW IN

- City of Chesterton
- City of Valparaiso
- Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- Indiana DNR
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Northwest Indiana Paddling Association
- Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- Purdue University (main campus + Calumet)
- Save the Dunes
- Wildlife Habitat Council



Nat'l Urban Waters Workshop

- July 20-22 in Washington, DC
- Representatives from each of the UW Pilots + Agency officials and national UW coordinators
- Chance to learn about how each pilot partnership was developing, what they were focusing on, who was involved
- Five people attended from NW Indiana Partnership (3 fed agency folks, 1 regional planning agency person, 1 NGO rep)



Nat'l UW Workshop Themes

- Local partners need to drive Urban Waters priorities and projects
- Each of the 7 pilots is at a different stage – this is OK
- Most of the pilots are focusing on one waterway or watershed
- Fed agencies can help a lot by letting local partners know about available funds for UW projects...
- ...But feds need to "stay out of the way" when they don't have resources to help move things forward



NW IN Partnership Meeting 9/12

- Discussed current & upcoming funding opportunities
- Learned about two initiatives, one in Indiana and one in Illinois, that are relevant to UW
 - AGL's brainstorming to identify bi-state restoration projects
 - Illinois governor's office's Millennium Reserve
- Save the Dunes watershed planning for the Little Calumet River
- Proposal to focus on 3 waterways:
 - East branch of the Little Calumet River + Salt Creek
 - Trail Creek
 - Grand Calumet River AOC



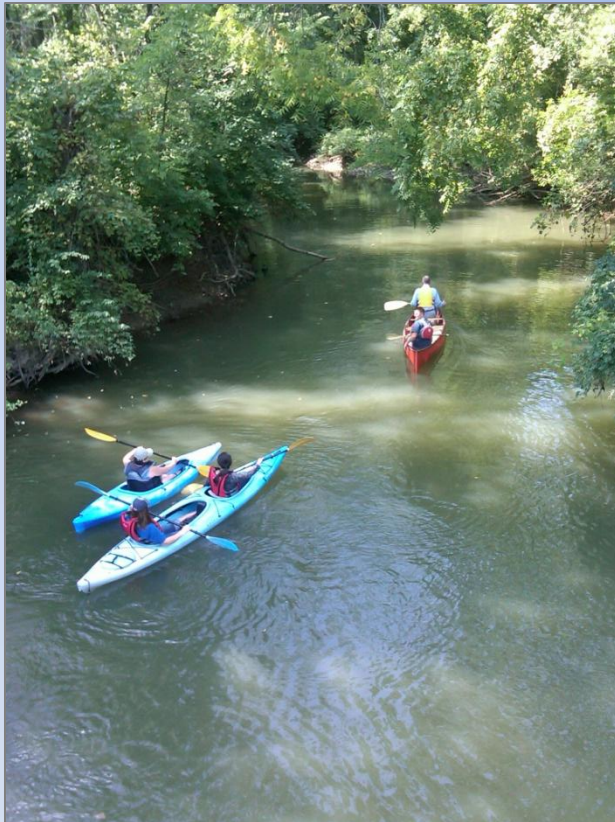
Three NW Indiana Waterways

- Trail Creek
 - Many identified projects
 - Active coalition of local partners that just need support and technical assistance from the feds
- East branch of the Little Calumet River + Salt Creek
 - Many partners already engaged around projects
 - Save the Dunes to start watershed planning
 - Effort underway to create a much coalition, feds can help
- Grand Calumet River AOC
 - Vision document from ~15 years ago needs updating as dredging and de□ listing move forward
 - UW can help reenergize local efforts and reconnect with the IDEM committee tasked with delisting the BUIs



September 12 Paddling Tour

- Led by Northwest Indiana Paddling Association
- Little Calumet River starting at Hawthorne Park in Porter



Photos by
Lynda
Lancaster,
National
Park Service



NW Indiana Next Steps

- Next meetings October 17 + November 14
- After this, quarterly meetings for the whole group and possibly more frequent meetings for committees connected to the 3 target waterways
- Pull together list/spreadsheet/matrix of existing projects with locations, goals, partners
- Need to identify “low-hanging fruit” projects that UW can help make happen
- Mapping of NW Indiana projects ???
- Need to continue to identify potential sources of funds + other resources



Questions? Comments?

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